



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

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TAYLORSVILLE DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO INDOOR MARIJUANA GROW AND POSSESSION OF FIVE FIREARMS

– \$40,000 of marijuana

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Danny Lee Walden**, age 47, of Taylorsville, Kentucky, in Spencer County, pled guilty to a five-count felony Information charging him with violating federal drug and firearm laws, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Walden also agreed to forfeiture numerous items, including firearms and firearms' parts.

According to the written Plea Agreement filed in open court, Walden, who has a prior felony marijuana conviction, admitted that all of his criminal conduct occurred in Spencer County, Kentucky, in the Western District of Kentucky. ATF and the Kentucky State Police executed a search warrant at Walden's residence on October 3, 2005.

Police discovered an indoor growing operation at the residence for the purpose of growing and manufacturing 115 marijuana plants. The marijuana plants at maturity would yield processed marijuana worth approximately \$40,000 on the street. Police also found a personal use quantity of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine.

Walden also knowingly possessed five firearms, revolvers and rifles, in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
Marlin	Glenfield M-60	.22 rifle	19330668
Marlin	336	30-30 rifle	18039073
Sturm Ruger	Vaquero	.45 revolver	55-27352
Sturm Ruger	New Model Blackhawk	.41 revolver	47-19963
Savage Arms	877 Stevens	.22 rifle	D031849

The firearms were found in several places throughout Walden's residence.

In addition, police also found unassembled component parts of a machine gun, including the bolt carrier assembly, selector lever, disconnecter, hammer, trigger, and drop-in auto sear that Walden admitted he knowingly possessed.

Previously, on June 15, 2001, Walden was convicted of manufacturing marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance, in case number 3:00CR-129-01-S, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. The 2001 conviction was for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is, a felony.

The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$4,752,500.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least 8 years and could be placed on supervised release up to life. Walden faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted this investigation in partnership with the Kentucky State Police, as part of their mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before John G. Heyburn II, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Walden is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Heyburn on December 7, 2007, at

11:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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